

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Aaron Deditch on 1/19/10.

2. The application has been amended as follows:

a. Original Claim 1: Line 4

i. In line 4, Replace "comprising:" with --comprising: performing the following operations with the computing element of the controller:--

b. Original Claim 1: Line 4

ii. In line 4, Replace "comprising:" with --comprising: performing the following operations with the computing element of the controller:--

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1-26 are allowed.

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Regarding claims 1, 14 and 16, the prior art of record does not disclose centrally specifying the operating states required for a certain system state, taking into consideration the ascertained dependencies among the functionalities and further boundary conditions, wherein each of the operating states is defined by an operating state variable which is able to take up various operating state values, and

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wherein each of the operating state variables is able to take up operating state values corresponding to "full functionality", "limited functionality" and "no functionality" settings. Regarding claim 4, the prior art of record does not disclose centrally specifying the operating states required for a certain system state, taking into consideration the ascertained dependencies among the functionalities and further boundary conditions, wherein for taking into consideration the ascertained dependencies among the functionalities, staggering in time a processing of the functionalities which characterize the certain system state in such a way that the second functionality is processed before the first functionality, so as to ascertain the at least one input variable of the first functionality. The allowability, at least in part, resides in these facts.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to CHARLES R. KASENGE whose telephone number is (571)272-3743. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 8:30 - 5 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Albert DeCady can be reached on 571 272-3819. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

CK

January 19, 2010

/Charles R Kasenge/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2121